



CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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EVERY TUESDAY

FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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1948—AND THE SIGNALS ARE AT GREEN

All Clear on Britain's 50,000 Miles of Railways

ON January 1 the four great railways with which we have been familiar all our lives, the LNER, the GWR, the LMS, and the SR, cease to exist as separate companies and become merged into the new State-owned British Railways.

Many of us will regret the passing of the railway names that have become household words and of their distinct characteristics—in colour and so on; but this unification is really only the completion of a process that has been going on for over a hundred years.

A century ago there were scores of different small railway companies in this country which, as time went on, became amalgamated with bigger companies until in 1923 the four big railways we have known were formed by grouping together existing railways whose names have passed into history.

Of the big four, the one that boasted the longest pedigree was the LNER, for it could claim descent from the first public railway in the world, the Stockton and Darlington.

It was on September 27, 1825, that the first "train of carriages" drawn by Stephenson's engine, Locomotion No 1 left Brüsselon, near West Auckland, amid a scene of enthusiasm which, an eyewitness tells us, "sets description at defiance. The welkin rang with loud huzzas." Gentlemen on horseback cantered beside the train!

In 1863 this great-great-grandfather of the world's railways was absorbed by the North Eastern Railway, which itself in 1923 was taken over by the LNER of our time. Among other railways of our grandfathers' day taken over

King Coal

British railways play a vital part in distributing the life-giving substance of industry—coal. Every year our trains cover 373 million miles, and as well as carrying passengers they convey huge quantities of merchandise—226 million tons! More than half of that merchandise is coal, without which the factories would be silent and we should perish.

by the LNER were the Great Northern, the North British, the Great North of Scotland, the Great Eastern, and the Great Central—much to the regret of the boys who delighted in recognising the engines by their colour.

Of the four great railways with which we have grown up, the only one which had retained its original name was the glorious old GWR. Its name will always be associated with the famous engineer, I. K. Brunel, who insisted on building the railway with a gauge of seven feet although railways in other parts

of the country were being laid with a 4 ft 8½ in gauge. Brunel's line from London to Bristol was opened in 1841.

The GWR grew mightily, absorbing many smaller companies, but on the question of its singular gauge it had to give way. Alteration of its lines to the standard width began in 1868 but was only completed in 1892.

The SR's ancestor, too, belonged to the pioneer days. This was the remote Canterbury and Whitstable line which was opened in 1830, with cannon booming and cathedral bells ringing, and ran through the first railway tunnel in the world. George Stephenson, consulted about the gauge for this railway, said: "Make it of the same width as mine; though a long way apart now, depend upon it they will be joined together some day."

Forerunners

But the history of the SR really began with the opening, in 1838, of the railway from London to Southampton which in 1840 became the London and South Western Railway. Other SR ancestors well-known to our parents, were the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway, which opened the first line from London to Brighton in 1841, and the South Eastern and Chatham Railway, which for one reason or another was the constant butt of the music-hall comedian.

The LMS was the biggest of the four railways formed in 1923, and operated in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. It may be said to have begun in 1830 when Stephenson's historic Rocket drew the first train across Chat Moss on the Liverpool and Manchester, the second public railway to be built in Britain. In 1846 this railway, with others, went to form the London and North Western, taken over by the LMS in 1923.

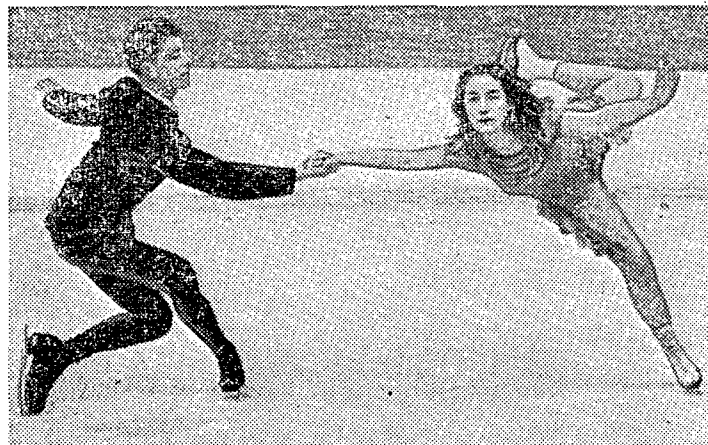
In the North

Scotland's first railway was the Glasgow, Paisley, Kilmarnock and Ayr, opened in 1840. Other famous railways grew up in the North, the Caledonian, the North British, the Great North of Scotland, the Glasgow and South Western, the Highland Railway; all were amalgamated with the LMS or the LNER in 1923. Now Scotland will get back her railways, for they are to be grouped in the Scottish Region, one of the six regions into which the railways are divided under the new British Transport Commission.

So our 52,000 miles of railway, with 635,000 railway servants, 20,000 locomotives, 40,000 carriages, over 1,200,000 wagons, which carry 1,200,000,000 passengers and 226,000,000 tons of merchandise a year, now become the most important unified railway system in the world.

The splendid traditions of our railwaymen, of which they are so justifiably proud, will be carried into the new era of—British Railways.

YOUNG CHAMPIONS



Eighteen-year-old John Nicks, of Brighton, and his fifteen-year-old sister Jennifer, the new British Pairs Ice Skating champions, seen on the ice at Wembley. The Women's Championship was won by seventeen-year-old Jeanette Altwegg, of Liverpool.

Secrets of the Far South

EXPLORATION of the Earth's least known continent, Antarctica, is going ahead. The Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition is now at work. The mother ship of the Expedition, HMAS Wyatt Earp, left last month for Adélie Land to carry out the first reconnaissance of the Australian sector of Antarctica. The Wyatt Earp, built in 1919, has already made five voyages to the Far South. Among her present tasks is to select a permanent base for future operations.

On board the Wyatt Earp are four scientists, and an air force as well as naval officers and ratings, for aircraft are carried by the expedition.

Special arrangements have been made for feeding these Australian explorers. About 5000 calories a day will be provided for each man compared with approximately 3000 for a man under normal conditions. Synthetic vitamins are added to a diet consisting largely of dried and canned foods.

The explorers' drinking water has to be obtained from melted ice and snow, but as this contains no minerals, iodised salt and a small amount of potassium salts of iodine will be added to the water.

America is also engaged in Antarctica. Her latest exploration is being carried out by two powerful naval ice-breakers, the USS Burton Island and the USS Edisto, which are going to try to crash their way through the ice round half the coast of Antarctica, keeping close to the shore and establishing the positions of bays, capes, and so on; thus checking aerial photographs taken in 1946. Each ice-breaker carries an amphibian aircraft and a helicopter.

Argentina has also been taking a hand. Not long ago an Argentine naval plane, a Douglas aircraft, made a non-stop flight from Piedrabuena, in Patagonia, to the Antarctic mainland and back, making a survey of Graham Land, which Argentina claims.

RATIONS FROM HUMPTY DOO

AUSTRALIA is better known for her sheep than her cattle, yet before the war she exported to this country very nearly as much frozen beef as mutton.

A British Government Commission is now on its way to Australia to seek further contributions to our meat ration. Its Chairman is Sir Henry Turner, who has charge of the supply and distribution of meat here, and has described himself as the National Butcher.

The Commission will explore new areas of beef production in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, and in North Queensland. Of these the one of highest promise is in what has long been called the Never-Never Land, for within it are herds of tens of thousands of cattle, some of which have only a couple of boys to look after them.

But this unequalled pasture is shut off from the cattle markets by the absence of transport, or

even of serviceable roads, and, of course, there is no railway. At its entrance the land stretches southward through high scrub, creek, and mud flat, and is weird and desolate till it rises into hills and changes at last to grassy plains. The gateway to this land of promise opens at a place most oddly named as Humpty Doo, where a beaten track begins, and to anyone but an Australian settler would seem to end there. But it is a track that leads to great surprises, not only at the sight of these vast quantities of cattle but because scattered among the herds are a number of buffaloes apparently as tame as the cattle and received among them as good companions.

Some day we may be welcoming from the other side of the world not only the Canterbury Lamb that comes, as Sir Henry Turner does, from New Zealand, but Humpty Doo steak or Buffalo undercut from Australia.



Midnight, December 31, 1947—the Old Year ends, and a New Year and a new era begin for Britain's railways.

UNESCO PLANS AHEAD

THE recent Unesco Conference held in Mexico City can undoubtedly be regarded as a milestone in a common endeavour to enlighten both individuals and nations. Although it may take a long time before this effort bears fruit, the year 1948 will see the start of some of Unesco's greatest schemes.

No method of educational effort has been left out of Unesco's world enlightenment plan, but the teaching of youth and of the still great mass of the world's illiterates will definitely come first in 1948.

In the International Charter for Youth it adopted in Mexico City, Unesco called on all nations to provide educational opportunities for world youth free from distinctions of race, colour, creed, or sex; no youngster—the Charter adds—should be deprived of instruction suited to his capacities by reason of the poverty of his parent or guardian. Thus will be discovered and developed many a fine brain which would otherwise be permitted to lie fallow.

A great effort, too, is to be made to assist children and youths whose education has been hampered through war; while, in order to help less developed nations to catch up with those of higher industrial achievements, courses in technical instruction will be given in many schools throughout the world. Even the Allied Control authorities in Germany and Japan are to be consulted about ways in which the work of Unesco may be extended to ex-enemy countries.

Barrier to Progress

The main Unesco battle of 1948 will, however, be against illiteracy. Not without good reason does this organisation regard illiteracy as the main bar to progress and democracy. The nations responsible for the creation of Unesco have thus set mankind a great democratic goal—the right of every person to learn to read and write, to open for himself the road to the limitless treasures of the human mind.

But it is easier to speak of the necessity for fighting illiteracy than actually to do it. Although we have, in recent years, made striking progress in adult education we still know too few facts on which to base a world-wide project of an educational campaign among the grown-ups.

HISTORY WITH THE MEAT RATION

THE other day a Cambridge housewife unwrapped her meat ration which she had just brought home from the butcher's, and this paragraph on the wrapping caught her eye: "Mr Pimmes Report of the Message: By Order and Command of this

The Yankee Friendship

AFTER the Friendship Train in the US comes the Friendship Ship. The train collected food, clothing, and other supplies for the destitute peoples of Europe. The vessel, which the Americans themselves called the Yankee Friendship, carried food and clothing to Scotland.

The food and clothing for Scotland was generously given by people in all six New England states. The name Yankee originally referred to the people of this part of America, so their gift-carrying ship is appropriately named.

For this reason there are to be set up what Unesco calls "pilot" (that is to say, testing and pioneering) projects which should provide as much experience under a wide variety of conditions as possible. The "pilot" projects are to be started in Haiti, a backward French-speaking Negro Republic in the West Indies; in China; in British East Africa; and in a region not yet named.

Making a Start

In the four selected areas experiments in combating illiteracy will be undertaken with the help of the latest techniques and materials. The aim is not only to teach adults to read and write but also to bring them basic education in health, agriculture, and citizenship; for interest in the printed word quickly wanes unless it opens up new fields of endeavour to the new reader.

The year 1948 will also see hundreds of scattered efforts around the world to bring education to the less developed peoples—Bush schools in Africa, craft schools in Latin America, mass education projects in China, and so on. All these will eventually receive the benefit of each other's experiences.

Many other good schemes are also to be set in motion in 1948. They mostly concern art, music, and literature; but the most interesting of all, perhaps, will be an inquiry as to what causes tensions between the various nations of the world.

And finally there is something to which we can all contribute. A Unesco International Ideas Bureau—suggested by the British delegates—is to be established to recruit the very best of those who today influence public opinion for the production of articles, books, broadcast programmes, documentary and feature films, which will illustrate and dramatise examples of international co-operation, combat ignorance and prejudices between peoples, and will, above all, stress those human qualities which are common to mankind.

House, I repaired to the Lords and there in the name of this House did accuse the Earl of Strafford of High Treason . . . And the date at the head of the paper was November 10, 1640!

The lady informed her son, who happens to be a member of the reporting staff of Hansard's Parliamentary Debates, and investigations were begun. Experts were consulted and the sheet in which the meat had been wrapped was identified beyond doubt. It was part of one of the reprints of Parliamentary proceedings printed by Hansard in 1819 and 1820. Only 1200 copies were printed, and, except for the official volumes retained by the House of Commons, they were unbound.

It was discovered that this document, with other faded sheets from the rare records, had belonged to a lady who died early this year at the age of 97, the daughter of a former Mayor of Cambridge.

Europe Still Divided

THE failure of the London Conference of Foreign Ministers of America, Britain, France, and Russia has caused bitter disappointment to all who hoped that the Peace Treaties with Germany and Austria would soon be drawn up.

The actual cause of the breakdown was Russia's demand for reparations on a scale that would, as Mr Marshall said, give the Soviet Union a power of life and death over the German economy. Agreement to the Russian terms could only mean the enslavement of the German people and retard the recovery of all Europe.

The three Western Powers press for a Germany that is united, not divided by an iron curtain as now, a Germany with its own Government which, subject to controls against rearmament, can build up its nation as a free democracy.

Until Russia takes up a more reasonable attitude these three Powers will do the best they can for the 40 million Germans in their own zones.

THE SHAPE OF PLANES TO COME

NOR long ago a crowd at Bitteswell Airfield, near Rugby, stood round an odd-shaped plane that looked as though it had been cut in half and the rear part of its fuselage and tail removed. It was the jet-propelled Flying Wing, A W 52, built as an experiment for the Ministry of Supply by Armstrong-Whitworths.

The A W 52 has something of the shape of a boomerang, the two sides of its wing being swept back at an angle of 35 degrees. Its fins and rudders are on the wing tips.

The crowd at Bitteswell watched a little breathlessly as Squadron Leader Eric Franklin calmly entered the pilot's compartment. But the Flying Wing soared as gracefully as a seagull.

It weighs 33,000 lbs, has a maximum speed of 500 m.p.h., and an extreme range of 2130 miles. One of its novel features is a method of sucking the "turbulent" air from its wing surfaces, which makes it easier to control.

It is expected that from knowledge gained from trying it out, flying wing aircraft weighing about 200,000 lbs will be built. The transport planes of the future are likely to be tail-less.

Tomorrow's Citizens

THIS week thousands of young people are filling the Central Hall, Westminster, for the Christmas Holiday lectures and discussions organised by Una's Council for Education in World Citizenship.

The series begins on Tuesday at 10 a.m., and there are many distinguished speakers.

On Wednesday morning there are to be lectures on Agriculture by Mr Kenneth Russell and Viscount Bruce of Melbourne, Chairman of the World Food Council; and Thursday morning is to be devoted to Coal and Labour problems.

On Friday, January 2, Mr H. A. Marquand, M.P., speaks at 10 a.m. on Co-operation and Planning; and, next, Mr F. J. Erroll, M.P., on Private Enterprise and Competition. The concluding address, at 3 p.m., is to be given by Sir Hartley Shawcross.

WORLD NEWS REEL

FLOWERS EARN DOLLARS. Carnations, grown in Sussex, are flown regularly to the United States. They are sold there for £35 per 100.

For the first time in its history the Channel Island of Alderney, which has a population of only 850, has registered a trade union agreement.

An International Bill of Human Rights has been adopted by an 18-nation Commission of the United Nations.

REMEMBRANCE. Horst Peil, a former P.O.W., back in Germany, sent several dozen toys to the Harpenden Salvation Army Corps, which he joined when he was in England.

British European Airways have decided to use Airspeed Ambassador aircraft on their routes, though it is unlikely that they will be ready for service for two or three years. The Airspeed Ambassador carries up to 40 passengers, has a range of 1000 miles, and a cruising speed of 255 m.p.h.

Egypt has resumed the importation of British cars.

LUCKY TEN. Schools in New Zealand have adopted ten London schools and will send them parcels under the Food for Britain scheme.

The last contingent of the American Army of Occupation in Italy has been withdrawn.

The first official British Naval visit to the New Dominions of India and Pakistan has been taking place. Admiral Sir Arthur Palliser, in H.M.S. Norfolk, who has visited Bombay, is expected to remain at Karachi (capital of Pakistan) until January 5.

ON THE MOVE. During the first nine months of last year, 88,351 emigrants left Britain, compared with 22,870 in the first nine months of 1938. Visitors to Britain in the same period of 1947 totalled 277,013.

Motor-car chassis made by the Bristol Aeroplane Company are being sent to Milan and Turin to be fitted with Italian bodies.

At Deptford recently, a ship intended for survey work in the Antarctic was named John Biscoe, after the explorer who discovered the southern part of Graham Land in 1833.

GREAT EVENT. In February the Duke of Gloucester, on behalf of the King, will open the first session of the Ceylon Parliament to be held after the passing of the Ceylon Independence Act.

Southampton children recently received a gift of 90,000 apples from Franklin County, Pennsylvania.

HOME NEWS REEL

BEST IS GOOD. At Grosvenor House, London, one of the smartest page-boys has been selected to take a managerial training course, which will qualify him for a manager's post by the time he is 21. His name is Best.

Since the National Corporation for the Care of Old People was established last August, grants of £133,150 have been recommended towards the cost of homes and other welfare schemes.

Coventry Education Committee has decided that children who cannot be served with a hot meal are to have "Oslo breakfasts." This nourishing meal consists of raw salad, raw vegetables, bread, butter, and milk in balanced quantities.

SORRY! After Clive Hastings, of Wood Green, London, had twice received calling-up papers he wrote to the Ministry of Labour and National Service, saying: "As I am only eight years old my teacher will not let me leave school."

An angler fish, weighing 20 lbs, has been caught at Penzance. The angler fish is an ugly monster with a long, swaying tentacle on its head which attracts other fish towards its huge jaws.

Tickhill, Yorkshire, a village of 300 people, claims that its total of savings for six years, £121,784, is a record for Britain.

SILENT HOUSE. Parliament will not re-assemble until January 20.

M. Bidault, French Foreign Minister, has opened the new Librairie Française in Regent Street, London.

Under the L.C.C. scholarships scheme last year an average of 9482 maintenance grants were given each term.

DOGGED. A terrier has walked from Scotland back to its former home at Bristol—300 miles.

When a cat was trapped on a narrow ledge half-way down a chalkpit at Swanscombe, Kent, recently, Leading Fireman W. Dodd was lowered by a rope to rescue it.

About 148,000 plants and cuttings from country gardens have been sent to London by Buckinghamshire W.V.S. for people with window boxes and small gardens.

RAILWAY SPEED. A diesel-electric locomotive capable of 100 m.p.h. has made its first test run from Derby to London.

The famous Chelsea Hospital statue of James II, by Grinling Gibbons, is to be set up outside the National Gallery.

At 2.15 on Saturday, January 10, at Caxton Hall, Westminster, Sir Arthur Cochrane, K.C.V.O., Clarenceux King of Arms, is giving a talk for children about Heraldry and the College of Arms. Admission is free.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

FOR THE BOYS. The ever-popular Schoolboys' Own Exhibition is being held at the New Horticultural Hall, Westminster, from January 1 to 10, inclusive.

For saving a girl from drowning at Clacton-on-Sea last August, Patrol Leader William Wilkinson, of the 19th Bradford West (2nd Bradford Grammar School) Troop, has been awarded the Scout Gilt Cross.

Scouts of the 124th Derby Troop entertained patients in Derby City Hospital on Christmas Day, made toys for the

children in the hospital, and earned money for charity by singing carols.

SERVICE. St John Nursing Cadets at Bexhill had a novel idea for a wedding present for Princess Elizabeth. They "adopted" four infirm old ladies, and five cadets were attached to each to do the shopping and run other errands as required.

The Boys Brigade Club in Coleraine, Co. Derry, Northern Ireland, held a gift day, and the club's 30 members provided goods for about 50 parcels for the European Relief Fund.

Girl Editor and Boy Printers



At her editorial desk in her home at Buckhurst Hill, Essex, sits Jennifer Newman, aged 18, the daughter of Lieut-Colonel A. C. Newman, V.C. Jennifer is studying to be a dress designer, but she finds time to produce a quarterly magazine called Chestnut Leaves, which is for circulation only among members of her family. Her 14-year-old sister, Sally, is the paper's only reporter, and Father contributes competitions and puzzles.

The boys of Central Park Modern Secondary School, East Ham, are seen in the picture below at their printing press. They turn out really first-class work which is much in demand. This year they are to have a larger printing press on which they intend to print their own school magazine.



THE TRISTRAM CASKET

THE British Museum has acquired a treasure in the famous Tristram Casket. This casket, believed to date from the second half of the 12th century, is made of wood and has bone or ivory panels on which are depicted scenes from the romance of Tristram and Iseult.

The casket measures six by four by three inches, and on top is a panel showing a scene in which Brangwin, King Mark, and Iseult figure in a setting representing Tintagel Castle. It is thought that the casket is of Rhenish or Eastern French origin.

Radio in the Mines

DURING its brief history radio has saved many lives by sea and land; it may possibly be used soon for the same purpose underground. With the help of members of an Army signalling unit, experiments are being made in the Catherine Pit at Crawcrook in County Durham, to find out how radio can be adapted to make contact with any trapped miners.

Some years ago similar experiments were made which proved a failure. Since then the technique of radio communication has improved immeasurably and there are high hopes that the present attempts will be more successful in making the mines safer places in which to work.

Brave Icelanders

WHEN the Fleetwood trawler, Dhoon, went ashore on a rocky coast on the north-west of Iceland, not long ago, several Icelandic farmers who live near the seashore rescued 12 of the crew of 15 under great difficulties.

The stranded vessel lay under a sheer cliff, 600 feet high. The only means of firing a lifeline over the trawler was from the beach, but there was no way down to the beach. The would-be rescuers were also hindered by fog. Nevertheless, some farmers, carrying the rocket and line apparatus, descended the cliff by ropes, and succeeded in firing their line over the Dhoon. The rescued seamen had then to be hauled to safety up the cliffs.

The Old Clock Ticks Again

A FEW weeks ago the C.N. described a 150-year-old clock which had been repaired; now comes news of this clock's great-grandfather. One of our readers, Mr W. H. Gray of Buxton, tells of a 257-year-old clock which he has repaired.

This several-times-great grandfather clock was made in 1690, the year after William and Mary were proclaimed King and Queen. It has only one hand, for the making of clocks with two hands had then only just begun in England. There are no minute marks on its old brass face, only the divisions $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $\frac{3}{4}$, and the

WATCH NIGHT

WHEN John Wesley and his brother Charles were sweeping the country with their new evangelism some reformed Kingswood colliers began to spend their Saturday nights in prayer and thanksgiving. The Methodist Society in London heard of this and decided that such a devotional meeting should take place each month, on the Friday night nearest to the full moon.

The first of these Methodist "watch night" services was held on April 9, 1742. In due course New Year's Eve came to be watch night instead, and Charles Wesley wrote a special hymn, "Come, let us anew our journey pursue," for that occasion. Subsequently, some Anglican churches took up this idea, and held watch night services, too.

Apart from this, New Year's Eve has no special significance in the Church calendar.

RADAR FERRY-BOAT

THE motor-vessel Abercraig, which operates between Dundee and Newport, is the first ferry-boat in Great Britain to be fitted with radar. The ferry service operated from Wallasey, opposite Liverpool, had previously adopted radar, but this is a shore installation.

Greatest Dane

WHEN the Queen Mary docked at New York not long ago quayside onlookers gaped at an enormous dog, nearly as big as a pony, that came down the gangway. Americans love anything big, but Rupert, who weighs 12 stone—more than most humans—and is reputed to be the biggest Great Dane in the world, simply deprived them of breath. They forgot to look at Gracie Fields and Loretta Young—also passengers—so intent were they on outsize Rupert.

He was on his way to Montreal from England where his master had been unable to get enough for him to eat. Let us hope he will have a big enough garden to bury bones in—and bones big enough for his taste.

THE IRON DUKE'S MONUMENT

THE Wellington Monument, the well-known landmark on the Blackdown Hills, Somerset, is showing signs of serious decay, due to atmospheric conditions, and the National Trust has launched an appeal for funds to repair it.

The Monument, which commemorates the Iron Duke, is in the form of the type of bayonet used at the Battle of Waterloo. £1500 is urgently needed to carry out the repair work. The people of the town of Wellington, which lies in the valley below the monument, have already raised more than £600.

hour are shown. In the corners are two cupids.

The clock had been brought from an old crofter's house in a desolate part of the Staffordshire hills to be put in a sale. Mr Gray's hobby is repairing grandfather clocks. But people at the sale said: "He won't make this one go." He found the clock had never been given any new wheel or other parts. Nevertheless, he made its old heart tick again and it is now keeping good time in his house.

Long may Mr Gray and his clock be companions!

Fortunes From Tummy-Ache

THE dream of the old alchemists was to transmute base metals into gold; the hopes of the crew of the Brazilian steamer Araxa rest on the more practical conversion of the product of a sperm whale's stomach into £350,000!

During their latest cruise from southern Brazil to Rio de Janeiro the fortunate seamen found a floating ten-ton mass of smelly, fatty matter which proved to be ambergris. It was the greatest quantity ever collected at one time, far exceeding a Dutch East Indian record of 932 lbs found some years ago.

Legend of Lyonesse

LYONESSE, the name of a fabulous region, famed in Arthurian legend as lying forty fathoms beneath the sea between Land's End and the Scilly Isles, may before long appear on our maps.

A plan which Penzance Town Council has just put before the Government Boundary Commissioners proposes the union of four now separate districts—St Ives, St Just, West Penrith, and Penzance, all in Cornwall—into one county district or borough. This district, comprising all the Land's End peninsula, with its 50,000 population, would be known as Lyonesse.

According to Celtic legend, Lyonesse connected Land's End with the Scillies until the sea covered it. Cornish fishermen have told holidaymakers for many years of an old superstition which says that church bells can be heard ringing under the water at certain times.

WINTER PROMS

IN the dark, cold days of early January the Winter Proms will warm countless hearts. The fifth season of BBC Winter Promenade Concerts, to give them their full title, begins on Monday, January 5, and lasts for a fortnight.

On every weekday evening in the course of those two weeks, whether we attend the Albert Hall or listen-in, we can be sure of a feast of music, composed by the great masters and played by the BBC Symphony and the London Symphony Orchestras, conducted by Sir Adrian Boult, Basil Cameron, and Stanford Robinson.

Priceless Legacy

AUSTRALIA has a bright and shining way of helping the war orphans. It began in 1923 when two ex-soldiers, Generals Savage and Gellibrand, talked over the problem of the children so many brave men had left behind them. What a legacy they had left to Australia! That name "legacy" was imprinted on the soldiers' minds, and the plan called Legacy grew up. It means what it says—the passing on of a responsibility or an honour. So Legacy clubs have grown up in Australia to look after, in a personal, intimate manner, the children of soldiers who have laid down their lives for their country.

In all there are 26 clubs with 1750 members, and every club retains perfect freedom of action, questions of common policy being discussed at Annual Federal Conferences. Every reasonable want of widows and children is attended to—clothing, housing, repairs, health, education, recreation, advice such as a father might give, and devoted care.

Ambergris is an excretion set up in the intestines of sperm whales, and is evidence of the world's vastest tummy-ache, accompanied by a huge bilious attack. The afflicted whale, very poorly and run down, casts forth its tell-tale ambergris as soon as it can—a nuisance to the whale, but a source of great profit to its finders.

Always rare and costly, ambergris was used by our ancestors in medicine, and also as a luxurious food, however nasty. We employ it nowadays in the making of the finest perfumes.

THE WHIRLING KNIFE

A CIRCULAR knife that revolves at 60,000 revolutions a minute was demonstrated to scientists in Philadelphia not long ago. This round knife can cut a slice four millionths of an inch thick. It whirls so fast that experts have not yet been able to decide whether it is the blade that does the cutting, or a supersonic shock wave set up by the revolving knife and travelling ahead of it. It is hardly to be recommended for sharpening pencils!

The Cat and the Rook

JOE the rook and Tim the cat, both pets of Mr Frank Frost, of Tankerton in Kent, have struck up an unusual friendship.

About six months ago Mr Frost found a baby rook fallen from its nest and lying helpless in the road near his home. He took the little bird indoors and fed it, and soon it had quite recovered; it made no attempt to fly away and adopted the edge of the draining-board in the kitchen as a favourite perch.

Tim the cat did not at first approve of the newcomer in the home; but the little bird's playful gestures at last won him over, and now the two eat together and are firm friends. In fact, the only source of trouble between them is that, just occasionally, Joe will peck Tim's tail.

YESTERDAY & TODAY



Page of Honour

On occasions of Court ceremonial the King and Queen are attended by Pages of Honour wearing scarlet coats, long satin waistcoats, white breeches and stockings, and hats trimmed with scarlet feathers.



A Little Wooden Hut

Senior boys of the St Mary's Mixed School, Marylebone, are using wood they have collected to build a playhouse for the nursery class, and the picture shows John Wright and Harry Harris at work, with some of the prospective tenants looking on.

Muncher, Thomas Oscar, & Co.

ALL animal lovers will be anxious to read Dorothea St Hill Bourne's book, *They Also Serve* (Winchester Publications, 15s), which is a delightful account, with many illustrations, of the animal and bird mascots of Service men and women during the Second World War. It tells, also, many stories of the heroic animals and birds who won the Dickin Medal.

Pets meant a great deal to our Service folk in the war. Here is a description by a sailor of Thomas Oscar, the cat mascot of No 3 Mess, H.M.S. Scorpion:

His kit consisted of—1 hammock, 1 bed, 1 bedcover, 1 pillow, 1 blanket, 1 kitbag, 1 H.M.S. cap ribbon for Sundays, and a rabbit's tail to play with.

"He has been on several convoys to Russia, and a raid to Norway. He saw service on D Day. Throughout all this he was very cheerful and a big source of comfort to the boys, and he is never seasick."

A GREAT COMET APPEARS AT LAST

A GREAT Comet, long hoped for, has at last appeared and has been travelling northwards from southern skies where it first appeared. Now it heralds the New Year by appearing in our sky, writes the C.N. astronomer.

This great visitor, at present known as Comet 1947 N, has been providing a fine spectacle and one of surpassing interest as it rose higher and higher in the south-west sky each evening after the Sun had gone down, though the presence of the Moon has not helped observation because her radiance tends to dim the fainter portions of the comet.

Not since the "Great Comet of 1910" has such a visitor entered our Solar System. On that occasion it was not seen until it was close to the Sun; for the comet approached from behind the Sun, whirled round it in a few days, and then vanished into the great beyond behind the Sun. Consequently, after a few brief appearances just after sunset and even while the Sun was still shining, it was seen by only a few observers, of whom the writer had the good fortune to be one. We are much more

fortunate in being better placed for watching this comet. Unlike such a well-known comet as Halley's Comet, which is periodical and has an interplanetary orbit within the Solar System, the Great Comets of which Comet 1947 N appears to be one come from outer space and sometimes from regions thousands of millions of miles beyond the orbits of Neptune or Pluto. Though they may return, it may not be for thousands of years. This and other facts about Comet 1947 N have yet to be found out from numerous observations and computations as the comet's path is revealed with more and more precision.

G.F.M.

SHRIMPER HELEN

IN or about 1777, when George Washington was fighting the American War of Independence, a shrimping boat was built at Gravesend, Kent. So well was she made that she is in service still. At 170 years of age Helen, as she is called, has gone ashore for a winter overhaul.

How many shrimps, we wonder, has Helen landed in her 170 years of service?

January 3, 1948

UNDER-WATER EPIC

SIXTY-SEVEN British sailors have just made naval history. In their specially-equipped submarine, Alliance, with Lieutenant-Commander K. H. Martin in command, these brave men plunged beneath the waves to discover how long, under tropical conditions, they could remain submerged.

Before their epic voyage, no submarine had been able to remain completely submerged for more than 48 hours without having to come to the surface. How long the Alliance remained under water is still an Admiralty secret, but it is officially stated to have been several weeks.

When the Alliance left Britain she kept on the surface until reaching the South Atlantic; then she descended into what has since been described as a "world of perpetual night" to begin a great endurance test destined to be the longest under-sea voyage ever made.

Every day the men were given sunshine vitamins (A & D) in tablet form to reinforce their rations, and there was no serious case of sickness throughout the voyage. In their cramped surroundings the crew had plenty to do, apart from their duties, and there was ample amusement in the form of films, gramophone records, games and books—including Jules Verne's *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*. The crew also wrote hundreds of letters home—though none could be posted until the submarine resurfaced—and one man, newly-wedded, wrote 120 letters to his wife.

When the Alliance finally came to the surface at Freetown in Sierra Leone, much valuable information about under-sea navigation and the reaction of men to prolonged submersion had been obtained and recorded.

Flag of Fellowship

THE Hurlingham Club of Melbourne, Australia, a home for sons of Australian ex-Servicemen, will soon be the proud possessor of a new flag, presented by the Hurlingham Club of London.

This symbol of British Commonwealth kinship was asked for by the president of the Hurlingham Club of Melbourne, and the response was immediate.

The flag, which bears the Southern Cross in silver superimposed upon the Hurlingham polo colours—blue and white in horizontal bands—is now on its way to Australia.

Circus Friends



Waiting to enter the ring at the Olympia circus.

The Editor's Table

HOPES OF 1948

THE New Year is born in hope. We should not be worthy of one of the liveliest sentiments in the human heart unless we greeted 1948 with a cheer and set ourselves in readiness to build well and truly in the days and weeks to come.

*Leaving the old, both worlds at once they view
That stand upon the threshold of the new.*

With much reason, perhaps, we look back on 1947 a little ruefully. Nevertheless, while tragedy, want, and fear still haunt the world's life, 1947 did open new doors of hope, and it behoves us to count our blessings as the New Year opens.

One big hope for 1948 is the firm foundation of British and American friendship which has been further reinforced in recent weeks. This friendship is not written down on paper, nor is it formulated in any agreement between governments; it has grown out of years of understanding and mutual belief in liberty. Our two countries fundamentally have the same ideas, although we may express them differently. And above all, as Mr Marshall has said, "this relationship menaces no one and harms no one. On the contrary, it is truly beneficent in its influence on world developments."

MENACE to none, friends to all! Those are the watchwords of the English-speaking peoples, and in themselves they are a contribution towards the restoration of good will and harmony among the nations; but it would be foolish to ignore the fact that world-harmony is still as elusive as ever. America, however, has already laid foundations of mutual understanding in Europe, and upon them, we must all hope, the nations will now strive to build a better world.

THE English-speaking peoples have a decisive part in this noble task. With bitterness towards none may they all stride forward through 1948, holding out the hand of friendship to every nation and finding it grasped, at last, in every corner of the world.

GOOD BEGINNINGS

WITH God begin the day:
Look up to Him and pray
For guidance through its hours,
For grace and heavenly powers.
With God begin the week:
Attend His house and seek
From Him the help you need
In every word and deed.

With God begin the year:
Embark without a fear;
His Everlasting Arm
Will save you from all harm.

David Effaye

JUST AN IDEA

As La Fontaine wrote, *Sensible people find nothing useless.*

Anxious Days For the U.N.

A RESOLUTION urging the U.N. General Assembly to form an international police force was recently approved at the annual general council of the United Nations Association—the organisation which mobilises public support for the U.N.

It was a timely resolution, for some kind of impartial International Force is urgently needed now if the United Nations' decision to divide Palestine into an Arab and a Jewish state is not to lead to further strife.

The Arabs, both inside and outside Palestine, have received this decision with intense hostility, and some have talked openly of defying the United Nations. Britain cannot be expected to act alone as policeman to enforce this partition. We are, in fact, about to withdraw our troops.

There can be only one of two courses for the United Nations: to reverse its decision or enforce it. No doubt it will choose to abide by its decision, and in that case we shall all hope that, very shortly, the Security Council will take steps to provide an International Force to keep the peace while the partition of Palestine is carried out.

Hail, New Year!

NEXT to Christmas-day, the most pleasant annual epoch in existence is the advent of the New Year... Now, we cannot but think it a great deal more complimentary, both to the old year that has rolled away, and to the New Year that is just beginning to dawn upon us, to see the old fellow out and the new one in, with gaiety and glee.

There must have been some few occurrences in the past year to which we can look back with a smile of cheerful recollection if not with a feeling of heart-felt thankfulness. And we are bound by every rule of justice and equity to give the New Year credit for being a good one, until he proves himself unworthy the confidence we repose in him.

Charles Dickens

Under the!



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If you can see
through people who
are bored

A GREENGROCER says he has a lot of green stuff left on his hands Ought to put it in a basket.

A CORRESPONDENT wants to know how to make jam roll. Put it in a jar.

ROLLER-SKATING on pavements is now an offence in Bucks. Anyhow it is easier to do it on roller-skates.

MANY housewives get tired out. But they can't always stay in.

THINGS SAID

MEDICINE is going to be a woman's job in future. . . . In the lifetime of those who are students today they will find more women than men in the medical profession.

Dr Edith Summerskill

NEW YORK papers are still half-an-inch thick on weekdays and an inch thick on Sundays. They are just as much too big as our newspapers are now too little.

J.B. Priestley

WE feel we have done our best in Palestine. The problem of enforcement must be left to others.

Mr Ernest Bevin

IF we are determined to make people see that the silver lining is getting larger every week we shall disperse the clouds.

Lord Mayor of Bristol

AT THE CROSSING

THERE has been a tendency of late to ignore the proper crossings and to revert to the old practice of "dodging the traffic." Therefore, the Ministry of Transport has asked local authorities to launch a new campaign to increase the use of pedestrian crossings.

Belisha beacons and studs damaged during the war will be replaced, and later on when conditions permit the beacons will be illuminated with low-power lamps.

All should make a habit of using pedestrian crossings wherever they exist. But, to ensure safety at night, all pedestrian crossings should be distinctively lighted, to give drivers ample warning.

How Bloweth the Wind?

IF New Year's Eve night-wind blows South,
It betokeneth warmth and growth;
If West, much milk, and fish in the sea;
If North, much cold and storms there'll be;
If East, the trees will bear much fruit;
If North-East, flee it man and brute.

Old-Time Saying

The Faith of Earl Baldwin

IT may well be that the fame of the late Earl Baldwin as a statesman will not prove enduring; and perhaps he would not have it otherwise. This man who for so many years was at the helm of State knew only too well that in public affairs the hero of today is often the outcast of tomorrow; and he was content to live out the evening of his long life in tranquillity and comparative obscurity, like a soldier after years of battle.

But if Earl Baldwin ever wished for remembrance we may be sure that it was as an Englishman, as a lover of his country in the finest sense. Love of England and faith in her future—these were the things that ran like a golden thread through his speeches and writings.

We give the following passage from one of Earl Baldwin's speeches, firstly because it is so typical of the faith which inspired him during his many years of service for his country, and secondly because it has a particular message for us all today.

"We can respect the fine qualities of other countries, but let us keep to our own. With our pertinacity, with our love of ordered freedom, with our respect for law, with our respect for the individual and our talent for combining in service, indeed, in our strength and in our weakness, I believe from my heart that our people are fitted to pass through whatever trials may be before us, and to emerge, if they are true to their own best traditions, a greater people in the future than they have been in the past."

Power of the Press

SPEAKING at Bermondsey recently of the useful power which can be exercised by the Press and public-spirited citizens, Mr Herbert Morrison, M.P., gave as an illustration a single letter contributed to The Times of July 15, 1944, by Lady Allen of Hurtwood which pointed out that there was no adequate public supervision of the welfare of children deprived of a normal home life.

"It is a tribute to the public conscience," continued Mr Morrison, "that this letter should have stirred up such widespread public interest and feeling that both Parliament and Government were moved to take action."

The action taken was the appointment of the Curtis Committee of inquiry from whose report has been developed a Bill shortly to be introduced into Parliament.

AS DAWNS THE YEAR

HARK! glad bells are ringing
Through the frost-bound night.
Oh! what joy they're flinging
In their hurried flight!
Joys for fears behind us
Hope for years to be.
Ring wild bells!
O ring the knells
Of mankind's misery!

Herbert Stoney

BRITAIN'S WOODLANDS

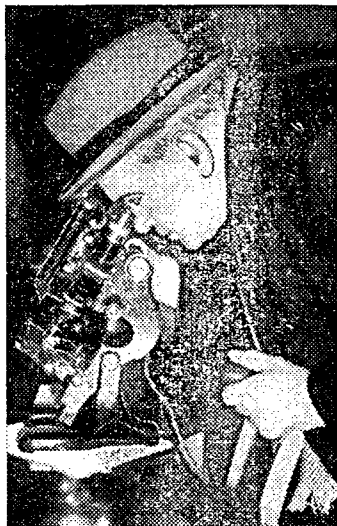
WHEN the boys and girls of today are beginning to grow elderly, it is probable that they will see many more woodlands in Britain than there are today; for the ultimate object of our Forestry Commissioners, whose 27th Annual Report was recently issued (Stationery Office, 1s 3d), is that 50 years hence there shall be five million acres of well-managed forest in our land. If all those woodlands were put together they would occupy an area larger than Yorkshire.

The Forestry Commission is going ahead with its big task. During the recent season 10,448 acres were planted, an increase of 3938 acres over the woods planted in 1944-45.

Thinning out young trees in existing forests is a work of equal importance, for trees cannot flourish if they grow too closely together. During the year 10,878 acres of plantation were thinned in England, Scotland, and Wales.

Shady woodlands not only add to the beauty of our countryside and provide a home for wild bird and beast, they are an important source of home-grown timber, from which comes the wood to make chairs, tables, desks, window frames, floors, and a host of other essential articles.

Looking Into It



The Minister of Education, Mr George Tomlinson, looks into a microscope during a tour of inspection.

YOUNG MINERS AT SCHOOL

AT Brierley, near Wakefield, 50 young men arrive every day for their weekly lesson at the "Miner's College." This is Boys' Pit, formerly Brierley Colliery, the only mine in Britain to be manned by lads all under 18.

When the National Coal Board was formed a year ago it chose Brierley Colliery as a training ground for young miners who showed promise. These lads, who will be the managers and executives of the future, come to Boys' Pit once a week for six months. There, by means of films, lectures, and demonstrations in the Colliery workshops, they are taught the theory of mining. In the afternoon the boys go underground, where they learn the practical side.

Next year it is hoped that 1000 young miners will "graduate." The future of the Coal Industry will be safe in their hands.

"Don't Be So Silly," He Said to a King

COMPARED with that of our times English music 150 years ago had little distinction, as a whole. There was, however, one really outstanding figure of the period, Dr William Crotch, whose work for English music is being commemorated this week, a hundred years after his death.

Born at Norwich in 1775, William taught himself to play God Save the King when two, the instrument being a little organ which his father, a music-loving carpenter, had made. When the child's musical talents were realised, he was brought to London where, seated on his mother's lap as a four-year-old, he gave organ recitals in public. His fame becoming noised abroad, he was taken to Buckingham Palace to play before George the Third who, worrying the child with suggestions, caused him to turn and sharply say, "Don't be so silly." The King only laughed, took him in his arms, and ordered tea.

Sir William Beechey painted a portrait of the child genius, and distinguished people interested in music wrote and talked about him; and Fanny Burney gave him his first French lesson.

His First Oratorio

Mastering the organ, William went to Cambridge at 11, and became assistant to the organist at King's College and St Mary's Church. At 14 he had his first oratorio, The Captivity of Judah, performed at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, but in the following year he transferred to Oxford University, where he was organist at Christ Church, and at 19 became bachelor of music and doctor of music three years afterwards. Meanwhile, he had begun to study for the ministry, but musical

composition and teaching were his real mission, and he poured forth oratorios, anthems, glees, fugues, concertos—noble music for both organ and piano, in the playing of which as well as of the violin, he was a master. Among the many fine chants he wrote, some, embodied in the Cathedral Psalter, are still sung regularly.

His Greatest Work

At Oxford, and afterwards in London, he had great teaching success, and in 1812 he produced his greatest work—the oratorio Palestine, which maintained its popularity for half a century. When, in 1822, the Royal Academy of Music was established Crotch was appointed its first Principal and selections from his Palestine were a distinguishing feature of the Academy's first concert.

With hosts of illustrious friends, Crotch lived a full and happy life, for there was not only his music, but his painting to engage his abundant genius. Though never regularly educated either in music or art, yet with brush and crayon he was a born artist. Wherever he went—to Oxford, Windsor, or his native Norwich—sketch-book or canvases accompanied him.

A composer who had raised the standard of British music from the depths to which it had fallen, Dr William Crotch passed away at Taunton on December 29 one hundred years ago.

READY FOR THE WEST INDIES

THE players who are to represent England against the West Indies during the next few months are "right on their toes," writes the C N Sporting Correspondent. Under the captaincy of "Gubby" Allen, they will play twelve games, including four Test matches, the first of which begins at Barbados on January 21.

Cricket has been played in the West Indies for over 120 years, but not until 1928 were Test Matches played against England. Since then the West Indies have proved doughty opponents.

The West Indies owe much to English players who, year after year, have fulfilled coaching engagements in the islands. Jack O'Connor, the former Essex and England all-rounder, who is now chief coach at Eton, spent several winters out there, and he is full of praise for the cricketers, and the cricket grounds of the West Indies. "There is not a bad wicket in the islands," he told me. Ray Smith, the tall young Essex cricketer, is coaching out there this winter.

Editor's Table

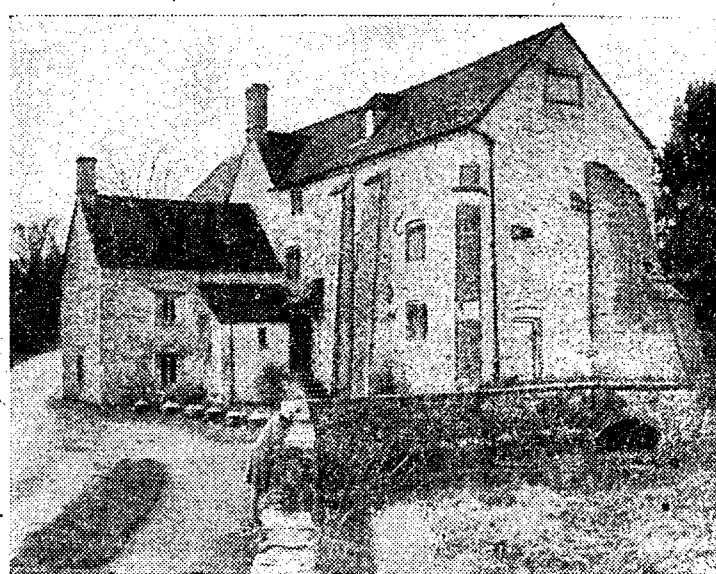
A FOREIGNER thinks that if Britain could arrange her weather she would have nothing to worry about. Nor to talk about.

No children's party seems like the real thing without a party frock. Provided there is someone inside it.

THE B B C is illuminating, says a wireless fan. Especially the Light Programme.



IT is said that longer skirts suit some ladies down to the ground!



THIS ENGLAND

Arlington Mill, Gloucestershire, which has been offered to the National Trust

He Inspired Sir Walter Scott

THE story of the German poet Gottfried August Bürger, born just 200 years ago, is one of an unhappy genius whose work influenced far better men.

The reading of Shakespeare and ancient English poems first fired Bürger to poetic effort. His eerie poem Lenore, published in 1773, brought out the latent poet in Sir Walter Scott. When 27 Scott translated Lenore, calling it William and Helen; it was his first essay in poetry, and, comprising 66 four-line stanzas of four lines each, was written by the young Scotsman between supper-time one night and breakfast the next morning.

First intended for the Church, Bürger became lawyer, professor, and editor. As a poet, he was for a spell the best known of his calling in Germany, with a strong inclination for thrilling verse of the Lenore type; but he ruined himself by wild living, and his fortune steadily declined until he was glad to earn his bread by poorly-paid teaching and translating.

He was married three times, each marriage helping to multiply miseries which he brought on himself. He knew what it was to enjoy fame, but he also endured shame and unhappiness of his own making. Nevertheless he influenced the literature of his time, and we certainly owe him a debt for calling into action the sleeping genius of Scott.

PRIDE OF BIRMINGHAM

DOMESDAY BOOK recorded of Birmingham that "It was and is worth twenty shillings." Its story from that time until its present worth of £7,000,000 rateable value is told in City of Birmingham Handbook, a handsome, well-illustrated volume which can be obtained from the Birmingham Information Department for 2s 6d, or 3s post free.

By the 17th century "Brum" had become a busy town of smiths and cutlers, manufacturing 15,000 sword blades for the

Roundheads in the Civil War. Today it has the proud title of being the best-governed city in the world, and this Handbook describes its future plans for caring for its citizens, plans which include an Inner Ring Road estimated to cost £15,000,000, a new reservoir four miles long in the Elan Valley, a vast new Central Market of nearly 6000 square yards, and a fine old people's home.

Brum lives up to its motto—Forward.

Steps to Sporting Fame



It is expected that Don Bradman, who scored his 100th century recently, will again captain Australia in England next summer.

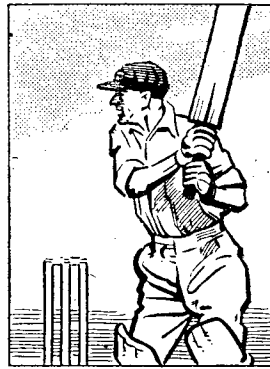


He was born at Cootamundra, New South Wales, on August 27, 1908, but spent his youth on his father's sheep farm at Bowral. At 17 he was the star of the Bowral cricket team.



Bradman is as brilliant in the field as with his bat. He throws-in with deadly accuracy, the result of long practice in tossing a ball at a single hurdle stake.

Don Bradman



Don averages a century for every three innings played in 20 years of 1st class cricket; and his 452 not out for N S Wales v Queensland in 1929-30 is the world's record.

Young Walpole Could Not Spell

AN interesting collection of letters written to Horace Walpole, the famous 18th century literary figure, has just been sold in London. Included in the collection were letters from the poet Thomas Gray, from the statesmen Pitt and Fox, and from the historian and philosopher David Hume. There are also letters written by Walpole himself in early childhood and carefully treasured by his parents. One juvenile and breathless effort penned in a scrawling hand by the boy who was later to rank among the greatest of English letter-writers, is most amusing, particularly to those among us—quite a number—who always find correct spelling and punctuation quite beyond their powers. "Dear Mama (it runs), I hop you are wall and I am very wall and I hop Papa is wall and I begin to slaap and I hop al wall and my cosans like their pla things vary wall and I hop Doly Phillips is wall and pray give my Duty to Papa."

From the whole of Horace Walpole's immense collection of letters we could obtain a fair idea of the 18th century without reading further, for he corresponded with most of the great men of his time. It is on his letters, indeed, that Walpole's literary reputation now chiefly rests. They are charming and make a picture of his life and times which has proved invaluable to historians.

MENTAL ARITHMETIC WITHOUT TEARS

SOUTH AFRICA has a wonder clerk, aged 22. His name is Smith, and Professor J. M. Lereux, of Stellenbosch University, has revealed him to the world as the latest in the long roll of human calculating machines, as they are called. Perhaps Smith would resent that description, but he is able to work out by mental arithmetic problems in one quarter the time that the professor takes with the aid of logarithms and a real calculating machine. Smith, moreover, shows all-round clerical ability, as well as lightning mental arithmetic, which not all such prodigies do.

Some years ago there was a 16-year-old lad in Ceylon who, though unable to read or write, could give an almost immediate answer to such problems as finding the fifth root of 69,343,957.

Even more remarkable than this Ceylon lad was George Parker Bidder, a Devonshire boy who was famous for more than half the 18th century. The son of a stonemason, who exhibited him up and down the country as "the calculating boy," he showed an astounding natural aptitude for mental arithmetic. While solving a really stiff problem the boy would hop some distance, then turn and give the answer while having one foot still in the air.

Bidder became one of our most brilliant engineers, almost miraculous for rapidity and accuracy in solving his problems, and, without lightning calculations, helped to give Norway, Denmark, and India their first railways. He believed that his success in mathematical calculations arose largely from the fact that in imagination he could "see" the figures of the sums, like characters in a story.

Another of these prodigies with figures, Jedediah Buxton, of Elmtun, Derbyshire, was himself

a puzzle. His grandfather was a clergyman and his father a schoolmaster, but never could Jedediah master reading or writing. The explanation in his day was that his brain was so charged with talent for mental calculation that it could absorb no other form of knowledge. He was a farm labourer, and after being called to London to repeat with success such feats as calculating the product of a farthing doubled 189 times (the answer to which, in pounds, extends to 39 figures) he turned his back with indifference on the Royal Society and other distinguished people, and returned to his native fields.

MUSIC FOR YOUNG EARS

MR K. E. CRICKMORE, founder of the new Music for Youth Society, has the right idea about music for young folk. With children, he says, it is no use "ramming beauty down their throats." They only need to be kept in touch with good music and they will learn to appreciate it in their own time. It is wrong even to tell them that "classical" music is good and that jazz is bad; they should be taught that there is room for all sorts of music and that there is good and

bad of each kind. Children should be shown the fun and thrills in good music and in that way develop appreciation.

It is the aim of the Music for Youth Society, which has Dr Vaughan Williams as president, to encourage a fresh approach to music. It plans to do so by organising concerts and talks about music, by improving the methods of teaching music in schools, and by commissioning works specially for performance to young audiences.

THE CHILDREN OF THE NEW FOREST—Picture Version of Captain Marryat's Story

In the days of the Great Civil War there lived at a big house called Arnwood, in the New Forest, four orphan children of a cavalier, Colonel Beverley, who had been

killed at the Battle of Naseby. Their mother, too, had died after Naseby, and they were in the charge of their Aunt Judith, a stiff old lady who paid little attention to

them. Their great friend was Jacob Armitage, a faithful, kindly old servant. The children were Edward, aged 13½; Humphrey, 12; Alice, 11; and Edith, 8.



Jacob was stalking a deer for food for those at Arnwood when some Roundheads dismounted near where he was hiding. They were searching for King Charles, who had escaped from Hampton Court. "He may be hiding in a secret passage at Arnwood," said a Roundhead. "We will make sure by burning the house down tonight." Horrified, Jacob hastened to warn his friends.



At Arnwood Aunt Judith agreed that Jacob should take the children to his cottage, but she refused to leave. The servants ran away when they heard Jacob's news. Edward wanted to stay and fight the Roundheads, but Jacob persuaded him to go. They loaded their belongings on the pony, and went to his cottage.



That night Jacob and the children watched the glow of their burning home. Next day Jacob went to the ruins, where a man told him that a Roundhead, thinking Aunt Judith was King Charles in disguise, had galloped away with her, but both had fallen from the horse and been killed. Everyone believed the children had perished in burning Arnwood. Jacob said nothing to the man.



Simple Jacob feared the Roundheads would harm the children of the famous cavalier if they knew they lived. He resolved to keep their existence secret. He went home and, when he saw troopers approaching, told the children to get into bed and he would say they were his own grandchildren, sick with smallpox.

Will the Roundheads believe Jacob's story? See next week's instalment of this splendid romance

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SNOW

By the C.N. Zoo Correspondent

WHEN snow lies thickly on the ground is not perhaps the best time to choose for your visit to the Zoo. There are, however, compensations. One is that only at such time can you see the peculiar footprints of many wild animals. During one "white spell" many folk I met at the London Zoo were amusing themselves in this fashion. Ignoring the cage-labels, they were trying to identify the inmates solely by their footmarks.

The task is not as simple as it sounds. Some tracks were so complicated as to defy all analysis.

One that was puzzling a good many people was that of a badger, which had been kind enough to take an early-morning run before shutting itself up for the rest of the day, leaving behind a particularly well-defined trail.

Four Toes or Five Toes?

The typical badger footmarks show a broad pad with four toes, and as a rule there is no mistaking this clear-cut impression. There are occasions, however, when the spoor of a badger can deceive all but the expert tracker. When the snow is newly-fallen and soft, for example, five toe-marks will often be visible, the animal's foot sinking in more deeply than it would otherwise do. This was the case on that particular morning; and the presence of that fifth toe was worrying the spoor-enthusiasts quite a lot.

Another track which puzzled many was that of old Jimmy the yak. After some minutes' close study of Jimmy's spoor, they said that these must be the footprints of a bison. One might almost suppose that Jimmy himself had heard their conclusions, for hardly had they exclaimed, "Yes, indeed—bison, without a doubt," than out strolled the old yak from his indoor den!

The snow-clad rocks of the Mappin Terraces provided "good hunting" also, and not a few teasers. I wonder, for example, how many people would have been able to identify the curious deep toe-marks left by a mouflon ram, had they not actually seen the animal about.

Playful Joey

Some marks, other than footprints, are puzzling. I wonder what most of you would have made of the curious disturbance I saw on the floor of the raven's cage. On the face of it, it looked as though there had been a bitter scrimmage there, for the snow was churned up and scattered in all directions. I was still studying this when a keeper came along with the explanation.

"It's old Joey up to his tricks again," he said. "Joey loves the snow and plays endless games with it. When he came out this morning he amused himself for about ten minutes, flying down from his perch and wallowing in the snow. There's nothing Joey loves so much as a 'snow-bath.' He rolls over and over in it and goes through all the motions of washing in water, beating with spread wings and tail—and, of course, the snow is sent flying in all directions." C.H.

A House in Lincoln's Inn

IN one of the pleasantest corners of Central London there is a house which was once the home of a famous and well-to-do architect. Designed by himself and filled, according to the fashion of his times, with a host of rare or curious treasures, Sir John Soane's House on the north side of Lincoln's Inn Fields is now a museum, open to all except on Sundays and Mondays. And all who can should visit it; they will find themselves stepping, for a brief while, into a more leisurely age.

Sir John Soane was a resolute collector. He collected everything, from the model of a pile-driver to Sir Christopher Wren's watch; from the Duke of Richmond's mummy case to the first edition of Robinson Crusoe, which will be found in the Library, side by side in a case with two of Sir Joshua Reynolds's sketch books. He also collected so massive a thing as the Sarcophagus of Seti I, 3000 years old, which had been declined by the British Museum, but for which Soane gladly paid the £2000 which the Museum would not afford. When this huge object arrived Sir John had to put it in the basement, so limited is space in a private house.

The only way, indeed, to appreciate Sir John Soane's residence is to enter it by the front door—the door through which Turner and other famous friends of Soane passed—and climb up floor by floor to the attic.

Famous Paintings

In this way we may travel through a collector's disordered Paradise; to a painting of Love and Beauty by Sir Joshua Reynolds in the Dining Room; and then to the Picture Room in which are the unequalled Hogarth's painting of The Rake's Progress, and, less celebrated but not less significant of those rough and ready times, the three pictures of The Election, with the candidate's supporters felling the voters of his rival with deadly wooden weapons.

But there are paintings of a mellow, peaceful kind, notably those of Venice, by Canaletto. One of them, of Venice and the Grand Canal, is a masterpiece unsurpassed in England; it must not be missed. Companions to

these paintings are the drawings and prints by Piranesi which limn for us the vanishing, and now vanished, Rome of that day. There are treasures for which the famous old collector found room in his town house; but we have only to look out from a window on a staircase to see piled up in profusion in a courtyard too small for them, fragments of the demolished House of Parliament, together with stone lamp-standards of Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Penelope Asleep

Such things can be singled out, but before the Sculpture Gallery we may well pause in some dismay, so packed it is, in spite of an attempt at order, with busts and statues and reproductions, some good and some only middling. But among the good are the very good, and any one might breathe a sympathetic sigh over the cast of little Penelope Boothby, sculptured by Banks, as she sleeps on her tomb in Ashbourne Church.

But now our guide must pause in his tour of the Museum, to recall only some individual unforgettable things: as for example the portrait of Sir John Soane by Lawrence which hangs above the fireplace in the Dining Room; or the pedestal walnut Library table which belonged to Sir Robert Walpole and on which stands a fine clock with an astronomical orrery showing the days of the week, month, and the phases of the hour—it belonged to Frederick, Duke of York; and last, in the Basement, a small strange Dutch engraving which claims to be an exact drawing of one of the thirty pieces of silver.

Sir John Soane's Museum, his bequest to posterity, is the strangest museum we have ever visited—it is certainly unforgettable.

Air Age Geography

AT an exhibition called Highways of the Air, which is now open at the Royal Geographical Society, Kensington Gore, London, are working models of air liners and models of present and future airports.

The Exhibition shows the development of Civil Airways and the importance of London and England in the network of the world's air lines. This is illustrated by globes, new types of air maps, and projections, all with non-technical explanations.

The Exhibition is open until January 15, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Admission is free.

NEW LIGHT ON THE HOUSE-SHORTAGE

A MARKED increase in applications for lighthouse-keepers' jobs is being watched warily by officials of the Australian Marine Branch. One officer has said: "Since the war we've been compelled to watch every application with more than usual care. We're discovering that some people will do anything to get a place to live."

LONE WOLF

THE Beast of Valais, has been killed at last. No longer will it roam the Swiss hillsides, an almost legendary figure, dealing swift and silent death among the goats and sheep.

Since it began its reign of terror many months ago strange tales had circulated about the identity of the Beast of Valais. Some said it was a panther, others a lynx, others again a wolf. Nor were the rumours unfounded, for during the war a train carrying a menagerie had been blown up nearby and some of the animals had escaped.

At last, however, the Beast has been shot. It was of formidable size, nearly five feet in length and weighing 88 pounds, and expert opinion declared it to be a wolf. It was carried in triumph from the woods and exhibited in a shop window; but many of the people in the canton still refuse to believe that this is the right animal. For them the Beast of Valais is still on the prowl, and perhaps in years to come it will be incorporated into legend, like the Minotaur of Theseus.

BSA facts on STRENGTH, SPEEDINESS AND SMARTNESS



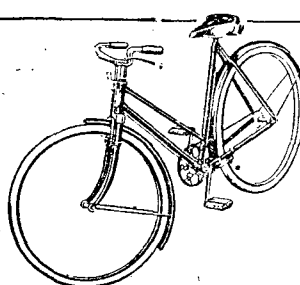
STRENGTH C.I. Thornton, famous Yorkshire cricketer, made several hits of 150-160 yards.



SPEED The Cheetah, probably the fastest of all animals, is used in India and Persia for hunting antelopes and other game.



SMARTNESS At the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, the King's Dirk is awarded to the best all-round cadet. Smartness scores points, of course!



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New U.S.A. Waterproof Knee Boots. Rubber soles, 2/6, post, etc., 1/-.

Gauntlets new waterproof, 5 Pcs. 2/6 or 4/8/- Gross. Post free.

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Food kept hot: brand-new genuine Ex-Army Steel Food Container. 32 in. circ., 3 1/2 in. deep. Clearance bargain, 5/9. Carr. 1/-.

Ex-Railway and Ship Tarpaulins. 70 sq. ft. 20/-, 140 sq. ft. £2 10s., 280 sq. ft. £5.

Approx. 360 sq. ft. £6. Approx. 720 sq. ft. £12, all waterproof and including carriage.

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THE BRAN TUB

LIFELIKE

A DISAGREEABLE-LOOKING man was making a tour of an antique shop.

"Huh," he snorted. "I suppose this portrait is what you call art."

"No, sir," replied the dealer mildly, "that is what I call a mirror!"

Wisdom of Shakespeare

AND do as adversaries do in law—

Strive mightily, but eat and drink as friends.

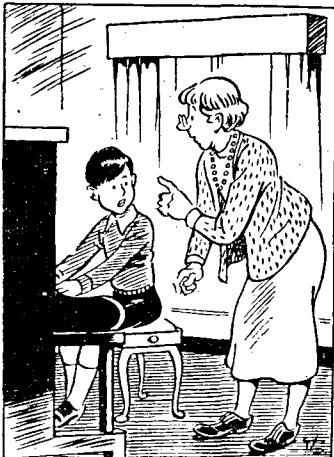
Try This Game

PASS a few amusing minutes on a winter's evening by trying to make sentences out of names. Here are three examples.

Persevere—Percy Vere.
Carry coals—Carrie Coles.
I've a ball—Ivor Ball.

Why not run a little competition among your friends at a party?

Roddy



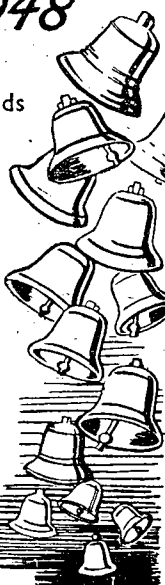
"Who was Major Key—did he compose military marches?"

BEDTIME CORNER

Challenge for 1948

Children, here and in all lands,
Helmsmen in whose lithe young hands
Is the wheel of fate to be,
Let the New Year bow the knee,
Dutiful unto your will,
Remembering what men must fulfil.
Eagerly pursue your ways,
Nothing daunted, as you gaze.
Splendid prospects crowd the view;

Newborn hopes depend on you.
Each and all, be strong, and kind;
Work and laugh, and seek and find.
Seal intentions with this vow:
Pleasing God, I'll not allow
Arduous tasks to conquer me.
Proudly breast the uplands free,
Ease men's loads, their cares abate..
Ring in 1948!



Jacko is Just a Passenger



"BEAUTIFUL morning," boomed Father Jacko, "I think I'll go skating." Everyone thought this a fine idea and the whole family made their way to the pond, where they quickly put on their skates. Father Jacko suggested a "crocodile" and so, putting their arms round each other's waists, they glided off. "Phew, this is hard work," puffed Father Jacko, after a few minutes. Then Adolphus saw the reason why—Jacko, Baby, and Bouncer were just hanging on and having a free ride!

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Delicate Redwings. Don stooped, and from the frozen snow picked up a brown speckled bird. "It's dead," he said sorrowfully.

"Is that blood on its breast?" asked Ann, for the bird's feathers were tinged with crimson.

"No, it's a Redwing," Don replied. "They are like Thrushes with red breasts. I wonder what killed it?"

"Cold and hunger probably," said Farmer Gray, overhearing Don's query. "They are less hardy than our English Thrushes, and not able to forage for food so well. Redwings do not care much for berries, either, only resorting to them when other food supplies fail. Severe weather often kills them."

Pithy Proverb

HE that would have the fruit must climb the tree.

Other Worlds

IN the evening Saturn and Mars are in the east, and Venus is low in the south-west. In the morning Saturn and Mars are in the south-west. The picture shows the Moon at 9.30 a.m. on Saturday, January 3.



BEHEADING

A HORSE's bed Without its head
Some height doth top.
A further chop,
And it will bring
You everything.

Answer next week

Children's Hour

BBC Programmes from Wednesday, December 31, to Tuesday, January 6

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Toytown Christmas Party. 5.35 Good Night and Good Morning.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Uncle Mac's Nursery Rhymes; Keeping a Diary; For Your Bookshelf. 5.40 Swallows and Amazons (12). Scottish, 5.0 New Year's Day Revels. 5.45 Future programmes. Welsh, 5.30 A country walk.

FRIDAY, 5.0 Tammy Toot's Winter Sports—a story; Young Artists; Scottish New Year—a talk; Songs. Midland, 5.0 Midland Magazine; Vernon Adcock and his Xylophone; When the Ugly Duckling was a Swan—a talk about Hans Andersen. West, 5.0 Mrs. Didymouse's Dream; Young Artists; My Pet Mongoose.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Variety. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Salavay Goes Home—a story; Young Artists and Writers; Nursery Rhyme Quiz; I want to be an Actor; Forgotten Games for Boys (Part 2).

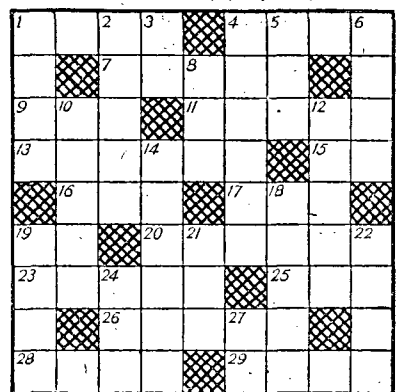
SUNDAY, 5.0 Crompton's Way. MONDAY, 5.0 Through the Looking Glass, by Lewis Carroll (Part 1). 5.25 Our Observer talks about the Schoolboys' Exhibition at Westminster. 5.40 The Snow Queen—a theatre talk. Northern Ireland, 5.0 Nursery Rhymes; The Owl Who Lost His Voice—a story. Won't You Join the Dance? (Part 1); Men of the Desert—a talk. Scottish, 5.40 Scottish Zoo Man.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Black Beauty, by Anna Sewell (Part 1). 5.15 Young Artists. 5.40 Drawing Competition. Scottish, 5.0 Nursery Rhymes and a Poem; More about Donald and the Gang (Part 1)—a play. Welsh, 5.40 A talk about winter games.

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 Gladly. 4 To ramble. 7 Celebrated. 9 Part of the foot. 11 Open to view. 13 Group of countries under one ruler. 15 A preposition. 16 And so on. 17 To exert power. 19 For example. 20 Inserted in. 23 To leap and frisk about. 25 Female of the hart. 26 To change. 28 Narrow strip of fabric. 29 This encircles a wheel.

Reading Down. 1 A fixed decree. 2 Out of place. 3 Negative. 4 To make known. 5 A poem. 6 Without lustre. 8 A high pointed rock. 10 This letter from the Greek alphabet indicates the end. 12 Proportion. 14 Hanging mass of ice. 18 To convey in a vehicle. 19 To prepare matter for publication. 21 Meshed fabric of twine. 22 A low sandhill by the sea. 24 A light sleep. 27 French for and.



Asterisks indicate abbreviations. Answer next week

OBVIOUS

"Jim thought that a rowing coach had four wheels."
"How absurd, everyone knows that it floats along."

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Jumbled Christmas Joys
Carols, presents, mistletoe, pantomime, stocking, Santa Claus.

What Is the Word?
Draughts



fight
the crisis
with
SAVINGS

Old Man Crisis wouldn't last long if everyone were like Mrs. Wiseman—busy saving hard. 'And I'm looking after Number One,' says she. 'Because every 10/- Savings Certificate I buy becomes 13/- tax free in ten years! If I can afford a thousand I'll have 'em and turn £500 into £650.' Buy Certificates from your Bank, Post Office or Savings Group.

SAVE
THE BANK WAY

Your Bank will tell you about a new, simple way of buying National Savings Certificates, either single purchase or regular investment, operated free of charge to customers.

Issued by the National Savings Committee